

DECISION NOTICE

FOR

AMENDMENT 2

LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST PLAN

Chavez, Eddy, Lincoln, and Otero counties, New Mexico

September 1988

The Regional Forester decided on October 31, 1986, to implement the Lincoln National Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan (the Plan), and it became effective on November 30, 1986. The regulations governing preparation of the Plan recognized the need to change and update it as time goes on, and gave Forest Supervisors the authority to approve nonsignificant changes.

I have decided to amend the Plan by deleting all references to base-in-exchange lands. Replacement pages containing the changes are attached. They should be inserted into existing copies of the Plan at pages 44-46.

Base-in-exchange lands are portions of the forest which were determined during the planning process to be appropriate for exchange. Such lands include parts of the forest partially or completely surrounded by lands of other ownership, or areas subject to a type or degree of use not appropriate for national forest lands. It was determined in the Plan that these lands would be made available for exchange for lands owned by others within national forest boundaries.

The inclusion in base-in-exchange of about 60 acres adjacent to the Village of Cloudcroft, New Mexico, resulted in an appeal of the Plan under 36 CFR 211.18. As a part of negotiations to resolve this appeal, a review of base-in-exchange was conducted.

The review revealed no compelling reasons for so identifying certain lands. Land exchanges are almost always initiated by landowners or others, who identify specific parcels they wish to exchange. The Forest Service is obligated to analyze all these requests equally, whether or not they involve base-in-exchange lands. As a result, designating lands as base-in-exchange fails to facilitate their transfer to private ownership.

I have determined through environmental analysis that this action will have no significant effect upon the physical, biological or social environment. Therefore, I am categorically excluding it from further analysis as per 40 CFR 1508.4, the implementing regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act. This amendment will be implemented immediately.

This decision is subject to administrative review in accordance with 36 CFR 211.18. Notice of appeal must be submitted in writing to: Forest Supervisor, Lincoln National Forest, 11th and New York, Alamogordo, New Mexico, 88310, within 45 days of this decision. A statement of reasons to support the appeal and any request for oral presentation must also be filed within 45 days of this date. I encourage interested parties to discuss their concerns with me before filing an appeal.

  
JAMES R. ABBOTT  
Forest Supervisor

SEP 30 1988

Date